

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An aerosol preparation, comprising:

an aerosol composition containing a macrolide compound; and

an enclosure enclosing the aerosol composition, the enclosure including a valve part having a “gasket” ~~made of~~ gasket comprising at least one resinous material selected from the group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, chloroprene rubber, polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 2 (Original): The aerosol preparation according to claim 1, wherein the macrolide compound is tacrolimus or hydrated tacrolimus.

Claim 3 (Original): The aerosol preparation according to claim 2, wherein the content of the tacrolimus or the hydrated tacrolimus in the aerosol composition is not more than 0.15wt%.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the aerosol composition further contains a liquefied hydrofluoroalkane.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 4, wherein the liquefied hydrofluoroalkane is one of HFA-134a and HFA-227, or a mixture of them.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the aerosol composition further contains a medium-chain fatty acid triglyceride.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the enclosure is a metered dose inhaler.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the “gasket” is ~~made of~~ gasket comprising at least one resinous material comprises at least one material selected from one group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, chloroprene rubber and thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~selected~~ gasket comprising at least one resinous material ~~made into the “gasket” is~~ comprises the thermoplastic elastomer, which is at least one rubber selected from a rubber group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber and chloroprene rubber, mixed with at least one plastic selected from a plastic group consisting of polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 9, wherein the at least one rubber and at the least one plastic of the thermoplastic elastomer is a mixture of butyl rubber and polyethylene.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the selected at least one resinous material made into the “~~gasket~~” gasket has a property such ~~a characteristic~~ that, just after the resinous material having 39mm² surface area has been soaked in the 10ml aerosol composition having the 0.025wt% macrolide compound for a month under a condition of 75% relative humidity and 40°C, the amount of the remaining macrolide compound in the aerosol composition is not less than 80% of the amount of the initial macrolide compound before the soaking.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, claim 1, wherein the “~~gasket~~” ~~comprising~~ gasket comprises a neck gasket portion for ensuring airtightness of the enclosure, wherein the neck gasket portion ~~is made of~~ comprises at least one resinous material selected from the group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, chloroprene rubber, polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 12, wherein ~~the selected at least one resinous material made into~~ the neck gasket portion ~~[[is]]~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises the butyl rubber or the thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 13, wherein the at least one resinous material is the thermoplastic elastomer and the thermoplastic elastomer ~~made into the neck gasket portion~~ is at least one rubber selected from a rubber group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber and chloroprene rubber, mixed with at least one plastic selected from a plastic group consisting of polyethylene,

polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 14, wherein the at least one rubber at the at least one plastic of the thermoplastic elastomer made into the neck gasket portion is a mixture of butyl rubber and polyethylene.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12, wherein the selected at least one resinous material made into the neck gasket portion has a property such ~~a characteristic~~ that, just after the resinous material having 39mm² surface area has been soaked in the 10ml aerosol composition having the 0.025wt% macrolide compound for a month under a condition of 75% relative humidity and 40°C; the amount of the remaining macrolide compound in the aerosol composition is not less than 80% of the amount of the initial macrolide compound before the soaking.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the valve part of the enclosure ~~further comprising~~ comprises:

a metering chamber into which a fixed volume of the aerosol composition is taken out from the inside of the enclosure; and

a slide member, wherein the slide member slides toward the inside of the enclosure so as to bring the metering chamber into communication with an inside of the enclosure, and wherein the slide member slides outward from the enclosure so as to bring the metering chamber into communication with an outside of the enclosure and to spray out the fixed volume of the aerosol composition from the metering chamber, the “~~gasket~~” gasket of the valve part including:

a neck gasket portion for ensuring airtightness of the enclosure;

a first gasket portion contacting the slide member so as to airtightly isolate the inside of the enclosure from the metering chamber; and

a second gasket portion contacting the slide member so as to airtightly isolate the metering chamber from the outside of the enclosure,

wherein each of the neck gasket portion, the first gasket portion and the second gasket portion ~~is made of~~ comprises at least one resinous material selected from butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, chloroprene rubber, polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 17, wherein the neck gasket portion ~~is made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer which is at least one rubber selected from a rubber group consisting of butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber and chloroprene rubber, mixed with at least one plastic selected from a plastic group consisting of polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polypropylene, and wherein each of the first and second gasket portions ~~is made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber or chloroprene rubber.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 18, wherein the neck gasket portion ~~is made of~~ comprising the thermoplastic elastomer which is comprises a mixture of butyl rubber and polyethylene, and wherein each of the first and second gasket portions ~~is made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises chloroprene rubber.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 17 to 19~~ claim 17, wherein the selected at least one resinous material made into each of the neck gasket portion, the first gasket portion and the second gasket portion has a property such ~~a characteristic~~ that, just after the resinous material having 39mm^2 surface area has been soaked in the 10ml aerosol composition having the 0.025wt% macrolide compound for a month under a condition of 75% relative humidity and 40°C , the amount of the remaining macrolide compound in the aerosol composition is not less than 80% of the amount of the initial macrolide compound before the soaking.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, claim 1, wherein the valve part ~~further comprising~~ comprises a metering chamber member, a slide member and a housing, wherein at least one of the metering chamber member, the slide member and the housing ~~is made of~~ comprises at least one resinous material selected from a plastic group ~~including~~ consisting of polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 21, wherein the at least one of the metering chamber member, the slide member and the housing ~~is made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises polybutylene terephthalate.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~, wherein the at least one of the metering chamber, the slide member and the housing is made of resinous material having a property such ~~a characteristic~~ that, just after the resinous material having 39mm^2 surface area has been soaked in the 10ml aerosol composition having the 0.025wt% macrolide compound for a month under a condition of 75% relative humidity

and 40°C, the amount of the remaining macrolide compound in the aerosol composition is not less than 80% of the amount of the initial macrolide compound before the soaking.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to ~~any of claims 1 to 23~~, claim 1, wherein the valve part ~~further comprising~~ comprises a protection ring ~~made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material selected from a plastic group ~~including~~ consisting of polyethylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyacetal, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 24, wherein the protection ring ~~is made of~~ comprising at least one resinous material comprises polyethylene or polyamide.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The aerosol preparation according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~, wherein the protection ring is made of resinous material having a property such a ~~characteristic~~ that, just after the resinous material having 39mm² surface area has been soaked in the 10ml aerosol composition having the 0.025wt% macrolide compound for a month under a condition of 75% relative humidity and 40°C, the amount of the remaining macrolide compound in the aerosol composition is not less than 80% of the amount of the initial macrolide compound before the soaking.